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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the instant amendments to the claims and specification and the following remarks.

Claim 9 and 12-17 have been amended and claim 10 has been cancelled by the instant amendment. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the language of claim 10, which the Office Action indicated would be in a condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form. Claims 12-17 have been amended to depend from either claim 9 or claim 11.

The equation present in original claim 10, e.g., $0.12 \leq \{(R_m + D_{sd}) \times k\} / R_d \times T \leq 0.35$, has been amended to provide $0.12 \leq \{(R_m + D_{sd}) \times k\} / (R_d \times T) \leq 0.35$. As provided by the specification at page 40, lines 4-5, " $\{(R_m + D_{sd}) \times k\} / R_d \times T = (8 + 0.5) \times 2.2 / (18 \times 12.1) = 0.09$ ", which requires that $(R_d \times T)$ be divided into $\{(R_m + D_{sd}) \times k\}$ to obtain the value 0.09. Moreover, in order for the calculations of Examples 1-6 to satisfy the equations, the product $(R_d \times T)$ is divided into $\{(R_m + D_{sd}) \times k\}$. The specification has been amended at page 9, 23, and 40 to incorporate the parentheses into the above referenced inequalities. Thus, no new matter has been introduced into the application by the instant amendments to the specification or claims.

Claims 9 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Kato.

Although Applicants believe that claim 9, as originally presented, was patentable over the combined teachings of Kobayashi and Kato, in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the language of claim 10. Thus, claim 9, as amended, is in a condition for allowance. Claims 11-17 depend from claim 9 and are therefore also patentable over the combined teachings of Kobayashi and Kato.

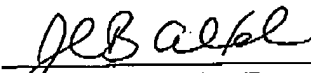
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It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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